



**Highlights from the local media of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**

August 22nd , 2016 | Volume: 2 - 9/8

[Dahal set to visit India on Sept 15](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 22<sup>nd</sup> August  
Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is set to embark on a three-day official visit to India starting September 15. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Bimalendra Nidhi, who is currently in New Delhi, and Indian officials confirmed the date for Dahal's maiden foreign trip after becoming the prime minister on August 3.

[Arrest in Mumbai attacks case may delay trial](#)

DAWN|22<sup>nd</sup> August  
The recent arrest of an alleged financier of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks has been termed a breakthrough in the otherwise stalled case, but it may delay the conclusion of the trial pending in an antiterrorism court (ATC) since 2009.

[WB Assists \\$70m to Afghanistan Irrigation System Development](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|22<sup>nd</sup> August  
World Bank (WB) has provided \$70 million to assist Afghanistan's ministry of water and energy for reconstruction and development of irrigation system. The assistance was announced by World Bank in a session headed by the country's chief executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul.

**AFGHANISTAN**

[Govt. to Report on Land Grabbing At Brussels Summit](#)

Daily Outlook Afghanistan|22<sup>nd</sup> August

As Afghanistan prepares to attend the Brussels Summit, the Independent Land Authority said on Sunday that it is preparing a report on the Afghan government's efforts to curb land grabbing in the country. The authority says it is concerned as the practice continues in parts of the country.

[Taliban captures Khwajah Ghar district in Takhar province](#)

Khaama Press|22<sup>nd</sup> August

The Taliban militants captured the control of Khwajah Ghar district in northeastern Takhar province of Afghanistan. Provincial governor's spokesman Sanatullah Temori confirmed the fall of the district which was captured around 5 am local time this morning.

**BANGLADESH**

[China-BD to discuss ways to enhance trade, investment environment](#)

The Financial Express | 20<sup>th</sup> August

Improvement of bilateral trade and investment environment and ways to address the 'concerns' of Chinese

corporations in Bangladesh will be the main focus of the next Bangladesh-China meeting. China will discuss seven specific issues, including negotiations on China-Bangladesh Free Trade Agreement and enhancing cooperation on major projects in the meeting, reports UNB.

#### [BNP-Jamaat govt behind Aug 21 attack](#)

BSS/ the Daily Star | 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again accused the then BNP-Jamaat government of perpetrating the grisly grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004. She said the incident jolted the world's conscience but the conscience of the BNP leader or the party was not stirred.

### **BHUTAN**

#### [Government of India hands over Nu 425 million](#)

Kuensel Online | 21<sup>st</sup> August

The Government of India handed over Nu 425 million under the Programme Grant to the Royal Government yesterday, according to a GNHC press release. The Indian embassy's first secretary, Neetu M Bhagotia handed over the cheque to GNHC secretary Thinley Namgyel

### **MALDIVES**

#### [ACC Report: MVR 49.4 million from the loans issued in Maumoons Presidency not returned to state](#)

Sun Online | 21<sup>st</sup> August

A report published by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has said that MVR 49.4 million from the loans issued during the Presidency of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has not been paid back to the state. ACC issued a report today following an investigation regarding a case filed claiming that the Ministry of Finance and Treasury did not take efficient steps to ensure the return of the loans issued under special privileges of the President during Maumoon's Presidency.

### **MYANMAR**

#### [China's president pledges to support Myanmar peace talks](#)

Mizzima | 20<sup>th</sup> August

Chinese President Xi Jinping promised to support Myanmar's peace process Friday as he met with the country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Beijing ahead of historic talks with armed groups near the countries' troubled joint border. During the sitdown between the leaders Xi pledged to "play a constructive role in promoting Myanmar's peace process" the official Xinhua news agency reported.

#### [State Counsellor returns from China](#)

Mizzima | 22<sup>nd</sup> August

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returned to Myanmar yesterday after wrapping up her five-day visit to China, state media reported on 22 August. During a stopover at Kunming, she held talks with Mr Li Jiheng, Secretary of Yunnan Provincial Committee of Communist Party of China, and Mr Chen Hao, Governor of Yunnan Province, at the Best Yuechang Hotel near Kunming International Airport.

### **NEPAL**

#### [Modi advises statute amendment for solution](#)

The Himalayan Times | 21<sup>st</sup> August

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi today advised Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Bimalendra Nidhi to bring all agitating forces on board by addressing their concerns through constitutional amendment.

#### [NCCCI forms Silk Road Chamber](#)

The Kathmandu Post | 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Nepal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCCI) has formed "Nepal Council for Silk Road Chamber of Commerce" under the leadership of NCCCI President Rajesh Kaji Shrestha. Given Nepal is also a part of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative of the Chinese government, the private sector stepped up efforts to promote the Chinese initiative that is expected to benefit Nepal.

## PAKISTAN

### [NSA spied on Pakistani civil-military leadership](#)

The Express Tribune|21<sup>st</sup> August

The United States' National Security Agency (NSA) hacked Pakistan's National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) to spy on Pakistani civilian and military leadership, online publication *The Intercept* reported on Saturday.

### [Country's power bill touches highest mark](#)

DAWN|22<sup>nd</sup> August

Pakistan's power sector receivables have crossed the Rs684 billion-mark, the highest they have ever been, despite a drastic 27 per cent cut in generation costs.

### [Long rows of containers, trucks at Chaman border](#)

The Express Tribune|22<sup>nd</sup> August

Nato supplies, Afghan transit trade and business activities on both sides of the border remained suspended on the third consecutive day on Sunday as Pakistan kept the border with Afghanistan closed. Pakistan shut the border at Chaman on Friday after an Afghan mob burnt a Pakistani flag and attacked the Friendship Gate on Thursday.

## SRI LANKA

### [Key military camps in the East will not be removed](#)

Colombo Gazette| 21<sup>st</sup> August

Key military camps in the East will not be removed, the Ministry of Defence said today. The Defence Ministry denied reports that 64 military camps in the East are to be removed.

### [Major security lapse during Sirisena's visit to Tirumala](#)

Colombo Gazette| 21<sup>st</sup> August

A major security lapse came to the fore during the visit of President Maithripala Sirisena to Tirumala in India today (Sunday). He was forced to wait for 12 minutes for his car after a darshan atop the Tirumala hill, giving jitters to the staff of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), especially the security. An inquiry has been ordered into the lapse, the New Indian Express reported.

### [Pakistan keen to invest in agricultural, IT and construction sectors](#)

Daily News| 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Pakistan is interested in investing in Sri Lanka, specially in agriculture, information technology and construction, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Retired Major General Syed Shakeel Hussain said.

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### ***About Ananta Aspen Centre***

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